



Flight Jacket

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

November 7, 2003

President surveys fire damage, thanks heroes



President George W. Bush, accompanied by Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gov. Gray Davis, speaks to local firefighters, police officers and volunteers at Gillespie Airfield in El Cajon Tuesday. Before the speech the president viewed the fire damage both on the ground and from the air.

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.—President George W. Bush visited Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tuesday to view the damage that was inflicted on the San Diego area during the recent fires, and to personally thank the local heroes that work countless hours to control them.

After the president arrived via Air Force One, he met with California Gov. Gray Davis, Governor-elect Arnold Schwarz-

enegger, San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and other government and political dignitaries, who then boarded Marine One and left MCAS Miramar for an aerial view of the fire damage.

When President Bush finished his tour of the area he traveled to Gillespie Airfield in El Cajon to meet and speak to a large crowd of firefighters, police officers and volunteers who battled the fires.

At the beginning of the speech, the president expressed what an honor it was to be in front of such unselfish people.

"I want to say it's a great pleasure to be

in the presence of people who have dedicated their lives to saving lives," he said. "People who have heard a call, and the call is to serve something greater than yourself."

The president went on to talk about the bravery of the citizens of the San Diego area.

"Governor Davis and Governor-elect Schwarzenegger and I saw firsthand what it means for people to draw a line in the sand, and say, 'this fire is not getting any farther,'" the president told them. "...We saw what heroic efforts meant, for people who said, 'We're not going to yield.' And we're here, first and foremost, to thank you all for set-

ting such a great example and for serving your community and for saving lives."

Before leaving El Cajon to return to MCAS Miramar, the president took an opportunity to speak of the strong response Americans have shown toward the fires.

"The best response is the response you hear from the citizens whose lives have been affected, the response - the refusal to give up, the notion that tomorrow can be a better day, the refusal to be defeated," he said. "And after all, that is the spirit of America, isn't

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Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



69° / 53°
Today



68° / 53°
Saturday



69° / 53°
Sunday

Marine wins
Price is
Right



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Wolfpack
trains to
fight fire



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228th Birthday message from CMC

Gen. M.W. Hagee

Commandant of the Marine Corps

This year we celebrate the 228th anniversary of the founding of our Corps. As always, it is an occasion for remembrance, proud traditions, and joyful camaraderie.

The events of the past year have called for great sacrifices from many Marines and their families. While the global war on terrorism will continue to demand the best from each of us, it is important that we join with our fellow Marines, families and friends to celebrate our Corps' special culture and unique warrior ethos.

This past year, Marines demonstrated once again that they are the most important entity on any battlefield. Lethal weapons and advanced technologies provide us unique advantages, but educated warriors ultimately determine victory in combat not machines. During Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, our small unit leaders' skills, adaptability and flexibility produced victory on uncertain and at times chaotic battlefields. We proved once again the power of integrated ground-air-logis-

tics teams as well as the importance of every Marine being first and foremost a rifleman.

Our special spirit is evident not only in battle; it is evident in the faithful performance of demanding duties by countless Marines at home and abroad. Every Marine makes a vital contribution to the ability of our Corps to project and sustain credible combat power. Moreover, the willingness and readiness of all Marines to accept and accomplish any mission is central to our success and a hallmark of our warrior ethos.

The culture that defines the Marine Corps is nurtured by our traditions. In celebrating our heritage, we strengthen the linkages to a glorious history and recommit ourselves to upholding the standards and values given to us by past generations.

In commemorating our 228th anniversary, remain true to the spirit of the occasion. Reflect on our fallen with deep respect, observe our traditions with justifiable pride, take care of one another, and of course, celebrate those special bonds that exist among United States Marines.

Happy Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and keep attacking!

Presidential Unit Citation approved for OIF Marines

Marine Administration Message 507/03 published the listing of units eligible to wear the Presidential Unit Citation. Just in time for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the PUC was approved to recognize I Marine Expeditionary Force for actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 21 to April 24, 2003.

"I feel a great deal of honor, especially since the last time this was awarded was for the Vietnam conflict and the Marines' actions there," said Sgt. Keith M. Fricke, Marine

Air Control Group 38 webmaster. "To be even considered in the same realm as them gives me a great deal of pride."

The message states that personnel permanently assigned or attached to I MEF who were actually present and participated in the actions are authorized to wear the ribbon.

Authorization and eligibility to wear the ribbon should be annotated in the servicemember's service records or other official records. Upon determination of eligibility, commanders are authorized to make the appropriate unit diary en-

tries. Servicemembers who did not deploy are specifically excluded from wearing the award.

The PUC included numerous Army commands and designated units of the British military.

Units that are not listed, but who believe they are eligible for the PUC should submit a letter via the chain of command under which they operated during the time period cited in this award. The issue will then be referred to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for endorsement.

For more information and to view the list of recognized units, visit www.usmc.mil/maradmins.

Drive one safe mile ... and repeat it a thousand times.

In honor of our fallen troops

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Sgt. Nicolas M. Hodson, USMC
Pvt. Nolen R. Hutchings, USMC
Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael V. Johnson Jr., USN
Lt. Kylan A. Jones-Huffman, USN
Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Jordan, USMC
Cpl. Brian M. Kennedy, USMC
Sgt. Bradley S. Korthaus, USMC
Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, USMC
Sgt. Jonathan W. Lambert, USMC
Lance Cpl. Gregory E. MacDonald, USMC
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Cpl. Jesus M.A. Medellin, USMC
Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa, USMC
Cpl. Jason D. Mileo, USMC

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Legal help for fire victims

Submitted by Legal Assistance Office

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - The Legal Assistance Office here expects the recent Southern California fires will impact several servicemembers and their families. The legal staff at the LAO extends its prayers and thoughts to all those affected by this disaster and is prepared to devote all its resources to help those set back by this tragedy. To this end, the LAO would like to give some basic advice concerning insurance claims and hiring building contractors.

After any disaster, victims usually have insurance issues to contend with. The California Department of Insurance (CDI) has a Web site outlining some pertinent tips legal would like to highlight. According to the Web site, www.insurance.ca.gov/CSD/Brochure/Residential/ResidPropClaim.htm, if an insured party suffered a loss because of the recent fires, it is necessary to take reasonable steps to secure the property from subsequent damage. The insurance company will reimburse for reasonable costs if receipts are saved. Nevertheless, be cautious of building contractors who encourage spending too much money on temporary repairs. Moreover, servicemembers should not make a lot of permanent repairs until the claims adjuster assesses the damage to their home.

Likewise, insured parties should contact their insurance company early to report the loss and get the claims process started (several insurance companies' toll-free telephone numbers for fire claims are listed at: www.insurance.ca.gov/CSD/Brochure/Residential/2003FirestormsInfo.htm). Some questions adjusters could answer concern policy coverage, time to process the claim, obtaining estimates and the amount of a deductible.



Col. Paul C. Christian, chief of staff, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, greets The Honorable Tom Ridge, Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, at Station Operations Oct. 31. Ridge came to the San Diego area to visit the victims and witness the damage caused by the 2003 Firestorm.

California's legislature has enacted the Unfair Practices Act (Insurance Code section 790 and several following sections) and the Fair Claims Settlement Practices regulations (Chapter 5 of Title 100 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing at section 2695.1). Full-text of the regulations is available for review on the CDI Web site at www.insurance.ca.gov for those occasions where adjusters do not provide you with satisfactory treatment. If your claims adjuster is treating you unfairly, contact the claims manager. If the claims manager is unable to resolve the problem, con-

tact the CDI Consumer Hotline at 1-800-927-HELP. You can also enlist the services of an attorney. The LAO will provide attorneys to consult insurance issues. If they are unable to help short of litigation, they can provide a list of attorneys specializing in litigating insurance coverage cases.

In addition, when seeking to make repairs, only the insured party can prevent being scammed. The California Contractors State License Board advises people to be wary

See Legal, page 11

Campaign offers bonds to children of fallen heroes

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.—With the help of the North County Honor Campaign and the Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA, children who lost a parent during Operation Iraqi Freedom do not have to lose sight of college education as well.

The North County Honor Campaign, a fund initiated by the North County Times, is currently offering \$15,000 savings bonds to children whose parents of any service who were deployed from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Stations Miramar and Yuma, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms or resided in either North San Diego or Southwest Riverside Counties at the time of their death.

The savings bonds, which are intended for college use, will be issued on a first come, first serve basis, according to Carl Creason, executive director of the Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA.

We currently have a \$422,000 fund to use to issue the savings bonds to the children, but once the fund is exhausted or the president declares an end to Operation Iraqi Freedom, we will not be able to issue any more bonds," he said.

Although the current funding will provide 28 children with the bonds, the funding can increase through donations. According to the campaign administrative guide-

lines, the Howard Charitable Foundation will match all donations two-to-one for up to \$1 million.

The campaign is currently in the process of issuing the first six savings bonds, and there is still a large amount of money to be claimed, as well as at least 30 children who are eligible to receive it.

According to Creason, issuing the bonds is just as rewarding for the North County Honor Campaign organizers and YMCA as it is to the children who receive them.

"We are here to help. And through these bonds, surviving family members can continue the dream of providing their children with a college education," he said.

Miramar recycles

For more information,
call Station Recycling
at 577-6366.

Miramar horse stables saved from inferno

Small volunteer crew leaves only inches to spare

Story by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — As the sun rose Oct. 26, the Miramar Stables were in grave danger.

Wildfire was spreading toward the stables and it was moving fast.

“Sunday morning around 6:45(a.m.) I looked up at the fire on the ridge (east of the stables),” said Suzanne Parker, Miramar Stables assistant manager. “It was just nasty.”

Not anticipating the fire would jump Interstate 15 like it would soon do, stable staff members began digging fire-breaks and watering the brush on the eastern perimeter of the stables. An old water truck was driven around, watering the shrubs, trees and grass dried from the waterless summer. As the morning moved on, there was no option left but to call the Miramar Fire Department in order to save the stables.

“We called the Miramar Fire Department at 8:30(a.m.), but they showed up without a water truck,” said Parker. “They used our water truck to combat the fires, and boarders and stable workers were fighting hot spots and created bucket brigades to stop the fire.”

Dave Odendall, Miramar Stables animal caretaker, piloted the water truck while Dave Touchton, also an animal caretaker, operated a tractor clearing brush and extinguished embers.

“As it started coming over the hill I came back (to the stables) and filled up the truck to try and put it out,” said Odendall, who has worked at the stables for seven months.

As the fire appeared to be stalled on the eastern front, flying embers created new hazards both to the north and the south of the stables. The staff and the horses were running out of time and Parker said the firefighters began requesting that stable personnel evacuate. The staff had moved 80 horses from their stalls to the arena at the stables, but with the fire threatening to encircle and envelop the stables, a decision



Gail Thompson watches Barron inside the arena at the Miramar Horse Stables, Monday. Behind her is the smoldering remains of East Miramar, where fire threatened to take the stables from the air station. With the help of volunteers, a handful of trucks and a few trailers, the horses were saved.

had to be made whether to stay or go.

“We wouldn’t leave without the horses,” said Parker. “We had volunteers and boarders show up with trucks and trailers asking how they could help. All together we had about 10 trailers, most of which were the small, two-horse trailers to move the horses. It was a lot of coordination but everyone did their part without hesitation and no one got hurt.”

It was arranged for the horses to go to the baseball fields on the air station, and a plan was immediately put into place to transport them.

“It was just a true team,” Parker said, recalling the day’s

See Stables, page 11

CFC organizations involved in Firestorm 2003 disaster efforts

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - The following list of organizations identifies local Combined Federal Campaign participating charities that are currently or have recently been involved in disaster relief assistance efforts in support of the October 2003 fires in San Diego County.

This listing, which appears in alphabetical order, was compiled by inviting all local CFC organizations to notify us of their involvement.

Contributions can be made to these organizations by completing a CFC pledge card and choosing payroll deduction or attaching a check. The CFC will ensure that these contributions are forwarded to the organization designated. For information on how an organization plans to use your donation, please contact the organization directly.

Please note that this list does not include national or international organizations. Some national and international charities within the CFC brochure may also be involved in helping to alleviate the enormous need. For information, please call the charity directly using the telephone number in the 2003 San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign’s Contributor’s Brochure.

While you consider giving to help towards the enormous San Diego County fire disaster related needs, also remember the many other charities that depend on your

CFC contributions and support to sustain vital community services throughout the country.

Alpha Project for the Homeless, CFC #6015.

American Red Cross, San Diego / Imperial Counties Chapter, CFC #6040, is coordinating and providing disaster relief services.

Boy Scouts of America, Desert Pacific Council, CFC #6122, has over 1,000 Scout leaders are working behind the scenes and also providing financial assistance for Scout-in families affected by the fires.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad CFC #6124, is providing programs to youth (ages 6-18) from 7:00a.m.-6:00p.m. while the schools are closed. Free membership to families affected by fires.

Boys & Girls Club of East County, CFC #6161, is providing supervision for children, extended hours from 7a.m. to 7p.m.

Boys & Girls Club of North County CFC #6136.

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito CFC #6146, is providing free program services to all who need them from 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Boys & Girls Club of San Marcos CFC #6154, is providing membership and program services to any child, ages 6-18 who have been affected by the fires.

Boys & Girls Club of Vista, CFC #6159, has responded to the school closures by opening up to all youth age 7 to 17 years.

Burn Institute, CFC# 5581; providing housing and transportation for burn survivors

and their families. Rehabilitation equipment, pressure garments, etc. are being provided at no cost to the survivor.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego, CFC #6194, is supplying food, water, counselors, masks and meals daily to the East County.

Deaf Community Services of San Diego, Inc, CFC #6252.

ElderHelp of San Diego, CFC #6262, is providing case management services to seniors, to include gift certificates, taxi vouchers, food vouchers and humidifiers.

Elizabeth Hospice, The, CFC #6266, is offering a time-limited support and education group for those experiencing loss of loved one, a home, or high-level of stress due to the recent fires.

Episcopal Community Services, CFC #6268, is distributing food and clothes and providing counseling services throughout the dioceses.

Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, Inc., CFC #6310, is offering their 3 cabins for emergency shelter.

Girls Inc. of North San Diego County, CFC #6314, has provided programming from 7:30 am - 6pm. Also doing a toy & food drive.

Imperial Beach Health Center, CFC #6328, is providing medical care to individuals with respiratory problems as a result of the air quality.

Interfaith Community Services, CFC #6412, is providing ongoing emergency services including shelter and breathing masks.

Jewish Family Service of San Diego, CFC #6336, is providing food, shelter, clothing, furniture and counseling.

Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc., CFC #6342, is providing free legal services to any individual or family affected by this disaster.

Linda Vista Health Care Center, CFC #6346.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, CFC #6350, is actively working with the Red Cross to provide emergency service, information and referral and assistance with clean up.

Mid-City Community Clinic, CFC #6374.

Operation Homefront, CFC #8176, is established fund to assist victims of the October fires in rebuilding efforts. Donations are being matched up to \$50,000 by the bank.

Palomar Family Counseling Service, Inc., CFC #6424, is providing professional counseling at their four facilities.

Salvation Army, The, of San Diego, CFC #6442, is providing coffee, water, food, comfort supplies and counseling.

San Diego American Indian Health Center, CFC #6472.

San Diego Blood Bank, CFC #6475.

San Diego Center for Children, CFC #6478.

San Diego Council American Youth Hostels, CFC #6326.

San Diego Rescue Mission, CFC #6492,

See CFC, page 11

Miramar Marine wins at the Price is Right

Story by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.—Becoming a Marine is often a dream come true, but for one very lucky Marine here so was the chance to get on his favorite television game show, ‘The Price is Right.’

He never thought he would walk away a grand-prizewinner.

During a taping of the show on Oct. 23, Capt. Charles A. Carte, 31, legal officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, won more than \$25,000 in prizes after winning the “Showcase Showdown” on the popular CBS game show.

“When I came to California this past June one of the first things I wanted to do was try and get on ‘The Price is Right,’ said Carte, who first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992 and later attended Officer Candidate School in 1996. “Being on the show was reward enough and I never expected to win, but I had a feeling I would get on the show.”

Wearing his Dress Blue Delta uniform, the Hillsville, Va. native charged to the front to bid on an item and earn his way onstage after being called to ‘Come on Down.’

Stuck on the price of a dune go-cart worth roughly \$800, Carte said he decided to seek out some help from the host of the show, Bob Barker.

“After I sought his advice he said, ‘Who would have thought that a captain in the Marine Corps would need advice from me?!’,” said Carte. “It was pretty funny. After that I played the game ‘Push-It’ but failed to win the featured bedroom set because I had no idea what the price would be.”

Going up against other contestants who made it onstage, Carte actually came close to not making it to the final “Showcase

Showdown” after spinning the famous dollar wheel.

“That wheel is heavier than it seems and it’s pretty hard to spin,” said Carte. “You really have to use your body weight to get it moving.”

Carte said not only was he the last contestant to get onstage, but he was also the last person to spin the wheel. Coming closest to a dollar on two spins without going over, he advanced to the Showcase after accumulating 90 cents.

“My first spin was 15 cents and the second was 75,” recalled Carte. “Another lady almost reached one dollar with her second spin, but the arrow moved at the last second and put her total over a dollar.”

In the “Showcase Showdown,” Carte said he bid \$19,500 on a boat showcase with an actual value of \$23,000. This bid put him closer than his rival who didn’t guess anywhere near the actual value of their Lincoln Town Car showcase.

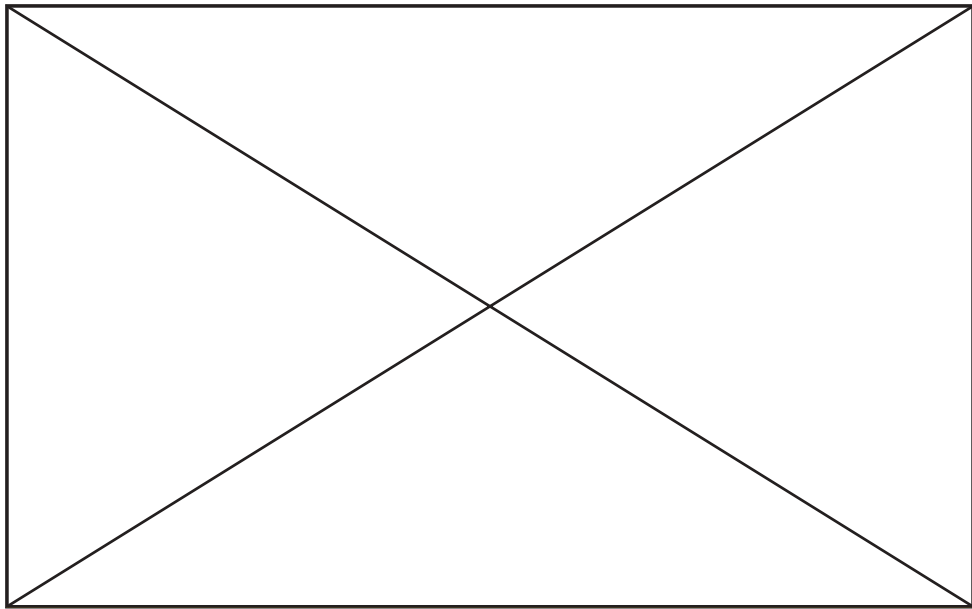
“I actually got some help from a former contestant in the audience who told me to go with \$19,500 which was more than my initial guess,” Carte said. “So I said ‘OK,’ bid \$19,500 and I won.”

With that victory, the other H&HS Marines that made the trip with Carte to the studio rushed the stage to congratulate him and partake in the celebration.

After the show Carte said he got the chance to meet the “Barker Babes” and received a signed photograph of Bob Barker himself.

“I used to watch ‘The Price is Right’ all the time as a kid and I just couldn’t believe I got on the show, not to mention winning the Showcase,” said Carte. “I still can’t. One of my family members who also loves the show is disabled and I really did it for her. The next time I go home on leave I’m going to give her the signed photo.”

The show featuring Carte will air on CBS Dec. 22.



Capt. Charles A. Carte (second from right), 31, legal officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, stands with his signed photo of Bob Barker. With him from left to right are Staff Sgt. Lisa Leighton, legal chief, H&HS, Cpl. Eric Spry, legal noncommissioned officer-in-charge, H&HS, and Lance Cpl. Kenneth Sawyer, legal clerk, H&HS, who attended the show with Carte.



ARFF cuts burned trees for traffic safety

Two Marines from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting here cut down trees hanging over Kearny Villa Road near East Miramar Oct. 30. The unstable trees were burned by the San Diego wildfires and were endangering road traffic.

‘Wolfpack’ trains to track

Story by Sgt. Richard J. Kulleck

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Miramar Marines are once again gearing up for battle, but this is a different type of battle. The aggressor is fierce, fast and has plenty of fuel to power its attack. It hit multiple locations with no remorse for the people, buildings or land it has killed and destroyed. This is not one person or a group of people; this is an element of nature. Wildfires have struck the forests and plains of California before, but according to Federal Emergency Management Agency, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, the lack of precipitation has caused more destructive and powerful fires than San Diego firefighters are accustomed.

Requests from the National Inter-agency Fire Center, in Boise, Idaho, were sent to the Department of Defense for air support in order to help contain, control and extinguish wildland fires in Southern California.

With a heightened state of emergency, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld gave approval for military support.

All military support to civil authorities falls under U. S. Northern Command located in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Homeland defense is the primary mission of the command, established as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. However, according to a U.S. Northern Command news release, they also provide ‘one-stop shopping’ for military assistance to civil authorities in the event of disaster relief operations to include wildland fires.

Six military units from across the United States were called upon to help support the firefight. Six Marine CH-53E Super Stallions with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, also known as the Wolfpack, from MCAS Miramar were one of the units tasked with this assignment because they had the most assets available.

The CH-53E is designed for heavy-lift capabilities and was considered ideal for this joint operation due to the weight of fully-loaded Bambi Buckets.

The three different types of buckets being used: one 1,340-gallon, two 900-gallon and three 660-gallon, are a proven helicopter-borne integrated fire fighting system used worldwide.

To assist in mission success, additional buckets were sent from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

“In order to fly with these NIFC and California Department of Forestry agencies, pilots need to complete certain training and there are specific people who need to give that training and then evaluate the pilots on their ability to drop water,” said Capt. Robert J. Muckenthaler, Marine emergency planning liaison for Joint Task Force Wildland Fire Fighting, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing representative to Commander of JTF-WFF, Brig. Gen. John Iffland, Air National Guard.

“It is not just dropping water out of a bucket,” said Maj. Bill McCrindle, U.S. Air Force Advisor to the JTF-WFF, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo. “It is all the coordination they have to go through with the people on the ground because the helicopters are supporting them.”

With a day and a half of accelerated training, 51 Marine pilots and 32 crew chiefs from different squadrons became class-certified, giving them knowledge in command structure, communication, fire behavior and bucket tactics.

Only 16 pilots and crew chiefs from HMMH-466 were able to put class knowledge to use at Case Springs, Camp Pendleton. They learned how to conduct drops, communicate and utilize the daisy chain method. Upon completing four runs, flight certification was granted to crews under CDF’s requirements.

“Some of the difficulties we had were finding a good long final approach and trying to keep the bucket from swinging,” said Cpl. Conrad Rodriguez, CH-53E crew chief and weapons and tactics instructor with the Wolfpack

This is not the Wolfpack’s first encounter with fighting fires from an aerial position. While stationed in Okinawa, Japan, the squadron had to conduct missions with Bambi buckets to extinguish range fires.

“They are familiar with the Bambi



Photo by Sgt. Richard J. Kulleck

In order to complete requirements for the California Department of Forestry, a MCAS Miramar CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, ‘Wolfpack,’ makes a pass dumping water from a Bambi Bucket. Once certified, pilots are authorized to provide air support to assist ground firefighters in battling wildfires.



A ‘Wolfpack’ CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, lowers a Bambi Bucket into water at Case Springs, Camp Pendleton, in order to be certified by the California Department of Forestry. The Bambi Bucket is used to drop large amounts of water on a fire, and used primarily when fighting wildfires.

***Safety Today --
Tomorrow may be too late.***



A Bambi bucket is dropped into a pond as the pilots and crew chiefs communicate to each other while trying to steady the hovering helicopter.

and attack wildfires

buckets but are not fully prepared for local areas because they need to know who to talk to when they get out to a wildland fire, said Muckenthaler. "In Okinawa they were not dropping in close proximity to structures and people, they were mostly doing work on range fires started by tracer rounds."

Each helicopter, when assigned to an area to assist in fighting fires, will be equipped with a crew of five. Two crew chiefs, two pilots and a civilian Camp Pendleton firefighter will be working together to make each run a success.

Tasking comes from South Operations, Riverside, Calif., directing each helicopter to an incident commander working the different wildfires.

"Right now all of them will be working in the San Diego county area," said, Muckenthaler. "As long as something is burning in San Diego, those Marine helicopters will be utilized."

A true 'force in readiness' with the combination of Marine Corps and CDF training, the Wolfpack Marines were tasked with assisting firefighters to combat the Paradise Fire Nov. 1.



A 'Wolfpack' CH-53E Super Stallion begins to hoist a Bambi Bucket full of water as a Camp Pendleton Firefighter monitors the bucket from a side window during certification training to provide aerial support to firefighters battling current wildfires in the San Diego area.



Photo by Sgt. Richard Kulleck

A Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 CH-53E dumps a Bambi Bucket, attempting to hit a simulated fire target on the ground. This training, when completed, certifies the pilots and crew to provide air support to ground firefighters in fighting wildfires.

Marine firefighter losing battle to toxic mold

Military groups come to aid of reservist, family

Story by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - After purchasing their first home in Fresno, the Hamre family thought they had it made. After all, life was good; Ryan was scheduled for promotion to fire captain in his civilian career at the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, and Suzanne and Tyler, Ryan's wife and 3-year-old son, were healthy, fortunate and happy.

As a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves and a civilian firefighter, Ryan Hamre thought he was living the American dream. However, after residing in their new home for only six months, the Hamre's literally opened Pandora's box.

While unpacking, Suzanne moved a box of children's clothing from a closet in Tyler's bedroom and noticed an ominous-looking dark stain on the carpet. After closer examination, the stain was found to contain mold, which had apparently taken advantage of a dark, damp environment and began to grow.

Wasting no time, Ryan went to a home-improvement store and purchased a do-it-yourself home mold test kit. Several days after mailing the sample to a laboratory for test results, the Hamre's received an alarming call from the laboratory processing the sample.

The list of different types of mold found in the Hamre's home reads like things from a mad scientists' experiment, including aspergillus, chaetomium, cladosporium and scopulariopsis. Ryan explained that according to laboratory findings, excessive levels of penicillium and stachybotrys chartarum, commonly referred to as "toxic mold," meant the Hamre's were not

safe in their own home.

"Our house looks like someone just went to work and never came home," Ryan said.

Ryan believes a leak from an air conditioning unit was the probable cause of the dampness within the wall and in the carpet, which became a perfect breeding ground for mold.

"The mold took over the whole room," said Ryan.

'For our peace of mind, we just want our home back. . . everyone helping us has gone above and beyond what we ever expected. We're all very thankful.'
Sgt. Ryan Hamre

"After a contractor removed the drywall from the area to look for the water leak, the whole house was exposed to high amounts of it."

Shortly after Ryan found out about the hazardous mold infesting his home, he was called to active duty by Marine Wing Support Squadron 473 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. An aircraft rescue firefighter, Ryan was stationed here, augmenting the Marines of MWSS-373 deployed in support of OIF. He suddenly found himself hundreds of miles away from the microscopic enemy attacking his family.

"Right after I left home for Miramar, our doctor ordered my family out of our house because of the contamination," said Ryan. "(The doctor) found high amounts of mold in Suzanne's blood and Tyler has black spots on his lungs, recurring bronchitis and asthma."

Ryan said after being advised to leave the house, Suzanne and Tyler had to stay with family members or at friends' houses until the Hamre's could find a place to stay.

While Ryan was serving here on active duty, he said he attempted to fix his family problems.

"I tried to make contacts and do what I could from (Miramar) but it wasn't easy," said Ryan. "Now we're exactly where we were eight months ago. Everything we own is still in the house, but somehow I have nothing."

Even when it seemed all was hopeless, Ryan was able to find help. Fellow Marines at MWSS-473 conducted fund-raising activities and have donated spare furniture to help a Marine family in need.

"People have been coming out of the woodwork to help," said Sgt. Christian M. Marinello, heavy equipment operator, MWSS-473. "I never knew how much people could care about a stranger," Marinello said.

Marinello has been arranging the fund-raisers to help the Hamre family get by. Besides being a friend to the family, Marinello has written a press release to get the word out about his fellow Marine's family, and helped create a bank account for donated funds.

Although the Hamre family appreciates the help they have received from the military community, he said he wouldn't be truly satisfied until he gets his home back, ending the nightmare his family has been living for nearly a year and living the American dream again.

"For our peace of mind, we just want our home back," said Ryan. "Everyone helping us has gone above and beyond what we ever expected. We're all very thankful."

For more information on toxic molds, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/default.htm>.

Home fire safety tips: A helpful checklist to save lives

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

A frightening coincidence, October was fire safety month. Though usually not given a second thought, the effects of this October will undoubtedly linger in the hearts, minds and pockets of thousands of Californians.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, a division of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, each year more than 4,000 people are killed and 25,000 injured in fires – many of which could be prevented.

The Cedar and Paradise fires swept across more than 743,000 acres and destroyed more than 3,587 homes. By Nov.

7, the death toll rose to 22, with dozens of others under investigation.

Though all of the following information would not have applied in this instance, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, the simple steps below can and will save lives during a house fire.

Install smoke detectors. Check smoke detectors once a month and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke detectors sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air. They can detect both smoldering and burning fires. At least one smoke detector should be installed on every level of a structure. Purchase smoke detectors labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Post emergency numbers near

telephones. Be aware that if a fire threatens a home, do not place the call to emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out and place the call to fire authorities from a safe location outside the home.

After a fire emergency. Apply first aid where appropriate. Seriously injured victims should be transported to professional medical help immediately. Stay out of the damaged building. Return only when fire authorities say it is safe.

Make sure there is a safe fire escape method for all situations. Some homeowners may have installed a very expensive home security system. But if they cannot escape the burning structure there is a false level of confidence.

Space Heaters Need Space. Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that may burn. Never leave heaters on when it's time to sleep. Children and pets should always be kept away from heaters.

Smokers Need To Be Extra Careful. Smokers should never smoke in bed or when they are sleepy. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

Be Careful Cooking. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so they do not hang over the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan and smother the flames, then turn off the burner.

Matches and Lighters are Dangerous. In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly! Store them where

kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked area. Teach children that matches and lighters are "tools" and should only be used by adults.

Use Electricity Safely. If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords and don't overload extension cords. They should not be run under rugs. Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse.

Cool a Burn. If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound under cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately!

Be Careful of Halogen Lights. Make sure halogen lights are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas. Never leave them on when you leave your home or office.

For more information visit www.usfa.fema.gov

Kid-friendly fire safety tips are available online at <http://www.kfst.net>.

Buy Energy Saving Products

All Energy Star certified equipment and products, including computers, monitors and printers, use less energy than other products, save money on utility bills and help protect the environment.

Marine Corps Marathon: a rewarding Sunday

Commentary by Cpl. Tara D. Smith

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - The most frequent question I was asked when people learned that I made the decision to undertake the adventure of the Marine Corps Marathon was, "are you right in the head?" followed by, "why on earth would you want to do that?"

Let's start at the beginning - the birth of the race.

Originally the Marine Corps Marathon wasn't a marathon at all. It began with a challenge between the Secretary of the Navy, J. William Middendorf, who held the office in 1975 and the 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Louis H. Wilson, Jr. It was a test of physical fitness.

Wilson accepted the challenge and quickly enlisted the assistant commandant, Lt. Gen. Samuel Jaskilka, to undertake the physical burden of the race - thus was born "The Great Thanksgiving Race."

Middendorf was to pilot a sailboat down the Potomac River while Jaskilka ran a three-mile course. In the end Middendorf finished with a time of 24 minutes and 10 seconds. Jaskilka took the race with a time of 23 minutes and 40 seconds. Eventually, this challenge evolved into the Marine Corps Marathon.

I heard this story last year around the time of the 27th Marine Corps Marathon and shortly after, decided I wouldn't let the 28th annual marathon pass by without participating.

I entered my name into the lottery the day it opened and eagerly awaited my confirmation into the race. When I found out I'd been assigned a bib number in the race, I cheered like I had just won the mega bucks lotto, and again my mental health was called into question.

I'll be honest; I really don't need an excuse to run. I enjoy it, but 26.2 miles of anything can be a bit much. Especially if that 26.2 miles follows a cross-country ride on a KC-130 that lands a day before the race. It would probably have been a good idea to leave myself a little more time to acclimate to the Washington, D.C. weather. Regardless, I was ready to go.

As for the race, you couldn't ask for a more motivational venue to "Marine Corps shuffle" your way through. Beginning in the Arlington National Cemetery, the race course passes the Pentagon, more than once, offering a beautiful vantage point of our nation's Capitol and winds up passing, then finishing at the Iwo Jima War Memorial.

I thought to myself, "How hard could the marathon be? I mean, Oprah did it."

Since I am a good public affairs pogue, writing the story should be no problem, right?

The day of the big event arrived and it occurred to me that 26.2 miles is 8.73 physical fitness tests. Wow, I'm going to have a lot of time to come up with a story on this marathon.

The race started and I couldn't complain about anything, not even the weather. As I launched, I reflected on why I was running the race as opposed to why others might participate in the event touted to be "The People's Marathon."

Personally, I just thought it would be fun to run a course through a venue with such great historic value. I mean, heck, it isn't a bad way to kill a Sunday. Others seemed to be inspired by interests like finding the cure to diseases like AIDS and cancer.

I also noticed runners who had pictures of Marines on their shirts. As I took a closer look, I realized that they were



Fifty-nine year-old Robert Ross of Washington, D.C., is assisted from the Marine Corps Marathon finish line by a Navy corpsman and a second lieutenant from The Basic School. Ross finished the race in 4:43:31 and was one of 703 men in his age bracket.

running in memory of those who now could not. A few more miles passed and I was still feeling good - mostly taking in

See Marathon, page 11

Heroes: Golf and the Golden Bear of the 1970s

Commentary by
Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar

M A R I N E
CORPS AIR STA-
TION MIRAMAR,
Calif. - Heroes is a
four-part series fo-
cusing on my favor-
ite athlete from a
certain decade. The
second part in this
series features Jack Nicklaus and the 1970s.

Until about six years ago, the face of golf wore shaggy, blonde hair.

Jack Nicklaus showed flashes of brilliance as a golfer even as a 10 year old. During his first round of golf in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, the drugstore owner's son shot an amazing 51 over nine holes.

Just to put that into perspective, most grown men can't shoot a 51. Nicklaus did it when he was 10.

As a 17-year-old, Nicklaus qualified for the U.S. Open. At 19 he won the U.S. Amateur, and at age 22, Nicklaus defeated the best golfer in the world, Arnold Palmer, in a playoff for the 1962 U.S. Open.

But the golfing world did not embrace Nicklaus at first. He was not like the rest of the players on tour, with his long drives and brash personality. "Fat Jack," as he was called, was actually booed at tournaments. Fans who were in the gallery at the 1962 Open were yelling at Nicklaus to miss his putt as he stood over his ball on the green.

That kind of behavior from a fan in the gallery was unheard of at that time, but that was a common attitude toward Jack in his early years.

By the 1970s all that changed. Jack had a huge following and fans couldn't help but like his fierce competitiveness and unique

sportsmanship. At the 1970 Ryder Cup (a tournament featuring the United States vs. Europe) Jack sunk his putt on the final hole and then picked up the ball marker of Tony Jacklin, who had a two footer left. By doing so, Nicklaus insured the first tie in the 42-year history of the tournament.

Asked by Jacklin why he picked up the marker, Nicklaus replied, "I don't think you would (have) missed that putt, but in these circumstances, I would never give you the opportunity."

An incredible gesture by an incredible man, who also just happens to be the greatest golfer of all-time.

At least for now.

Since Tiger Woods has become the dominant golfer we all knew he would be, critics are trying to measure Tiger's greatness by comparing him to the one and only Jack Nicklaus.

That's like trying to compare Kobe Bryant to Michael Jordan. Sure, Kobe's won a few rings just like Tiger's won a few majors, but Kobe's not even in the same galaxy as Michael Jordan, and Tiger's not close to Jack...yet.

But there are striking similarities between the young Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Both are extremely long off the tee and much more powerful than any other player on tour. Because of the fierce competitiveness that consumed their lives, neither had many close friends.

Now, don't get me wrong. I love my wife almost as much as I love Tiger Woods, or maybe it's the other way around. Anyway, I'm the biggest Tiger Woods fan on the planet.

But despite my profound love for the man, I do admit he has his faults. One being that sometimes Tiger lets his emotions get the best of him, and when he does he ends up not only losing the tournament, but more

often than not he's way off the leader board.

And that's the difference between Tiger now and Jack then: consistency.

Nicklaus won 20 major titles and finished in the top five of 56 Grand Slam Champion

ships.

Let me say that again, *the top five of 56 Grand Slam Championships.*

If that's not consistency, I don't know what is.



Sgt. Joshua Stueve

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ♦ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ♦ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sundays or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ♦ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ♦ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday
- ♦ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ♦ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ♦ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ♦ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10: 45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ♦ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

Miramar to host Dennis Miller

The Spirit of America Tour presents Dennis Miller Live at the MCAS Miramar Theater, Friday, Nov. 14.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Those attending must be 18 and older to enter.

Tickets are available at the MCCS/MWR Ticket Office. Tickets are given to active duty only Nov. 5-9 and all other eligible patrons Nov. 10-13.

There is a limit of two tickets per mili-

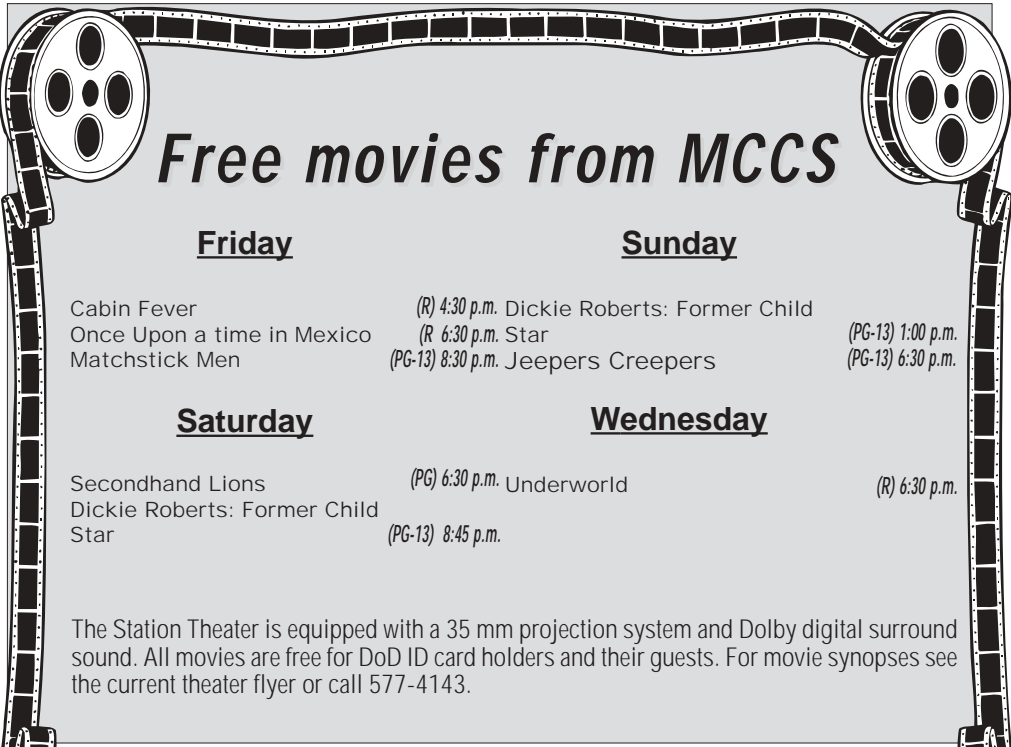
tary ID and seating is limited, so early arrival is suggested.

Space available seating begins at 6:20 p.m.

For more information, call (858) 577-6365 or visit www.mccsmiramar.com.

Legal Assistance can provide help

The Legal Assistance Office can provide help with a variety of legal issues, including adoptions, nonsupports, separation and divorce, contracts, real estate, finances, con-



Free movies from MCCS

Friday	Sunday
Cabin Fever Once Upon a time in Mexico Matchstick Men	(R) 4:30 p.m. Dickie Roberts: Former Child (R) 6:30 p.m. Star (PG-13) 8:30 p.m. Jeepers Creepers
Saturday	Wednesday
Secondhand Lions Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star	(PG) 6:30 p.m. Underworld (R) 6:30 p.m.

(PG-13) 1:00 p.m.
(PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The Station Theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby digital surround sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

sumer law, automobiles, paternity, name changes, immigration, custody, wills and the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act.

Consultations are seen on a walk-in basis on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis subject to attorney availability. Active duty in uniform have priority.

There is an estate planning brief on the first and third Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Notorizations and powers of attorney are handled Monday and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Marriage dissolution and separation briefs are held Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Immigration briefs are held Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Legal Assistance Office is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to

11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday hours are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Legal Office is located at Building 2244. For more information call (858) 577-1656.

Veterans Day volunteers needed

The Mt. Soledad Memorial Association is looking for active duty military volunteers to participate in a Veterans Day ceremony at the Mt. Soledad Veteran's Memorial on Tuesday from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments, collecting donations and passing out poppies.

Volunteers must check in between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. due to traffic limitations.

If you would like to volunteer, call (858) 577-4539.

President,
continued from page 1
it?”

Perhaps the biggest response of the day came from the firefighters who cheered on the president as he walked through the crowd and delivered his speech.

“I was very impressed with the president’s speech,” said Rod Ballard, a division chief with the San Diego Fire and Rescue department. “He seemed like a very genuine, nice and down to earth guy, and was very concerned with identifying issues concerning the community.”

Legal,
continued from page 3
of unlicensed contractors and rushing into repairs. Deal only with licensed contractors and get everything in writing. Get the contractor’s license number and verify it either at: <http://www.cslb.ca.gov> or call the CSLB’s toll-free automated telephone number at (800) 321-2752.

Finally, for servicemembers and their families whose fire-related issues are not solved by the above information and resources, the LAO will immediately provide walk-in services from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and can be reached

at (858) 577-1656.

Stables,
continued from page 4
events. “It was just tremendous and it instills a lot of humanity in you. Animals tend to bring parts out of people that you don’t normally see. There was no room for egos and nobody flashed one.”

Parker said by the time all the horses had been evacuated to the baseball fields the fire had been put out enough for them to return safely.

“We had to turn around and bring them all back,” she said. “If you think about it, we moved nearly 200 horses with only a handful of trailers. We wouldn’t have been able to survive without everyone who volunteered to help us.”

CFC,
continued from page 4
is providing emergency shelter for homeless to get out of the not-so-fresh air during this crisis food to the Qualcomm information/evacuation center.

San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc., CFC #6504.

St. Vincent de Paul Village, Inc., CFC #6556.

USO Council of San Diego, CFC #6576.
Vista Community Clinic, CFC #6582.

Volunteer San Diego, CFC #6706, is connecting untrained, unaffiliated volunteers to the agencies and organizations that need assistance.

Wildlife Research Institute, Inc., CFC #8175.

YMCA of San Diego County, CFC #6596.

YWCA of San Diego County, CFC #6640, is holding several rooms as emergency shelter at the Cortez Hill Family Homeless Shelter.

Marathon,
continued from page 9
the scenery and thinking, “I still have no direction for a story, but hey isn’t that the Pentagon again? Wow, look at the gridlock on the freeway!”

Still more miles added -up and I realized, “hey, wasn’t that a full bird colonel supplying me with liquid refreshment?” That, my friends, is the epitome of troop welfare.

Mile marker lucky number 13, and I was still feeling good. I didn’t have the slightest idea for a story, but Missy ‘Misdemeanor’ Elliot was playing on my headset and I still had 13.2 miles to figure things out.

I can’t really account for miles 14-23. I do remember I didn’t stop, but things more or less went numb at the midway point and I slipped into a euphoric haze.

Mile marker 23 I do remember, mostly because I knew the end was near, but also because I had one more PFT course to run, still no story idea, and I had never seen so much brass in one place at one time in my entire life. The streets were full of high-ranking officers.

After all was said and done, I finished the race in 4 hours 28 minutes. That took 4 hours and 5 minutes more than Lt. Gen. Jaskilka’s run, but I don’t regret a second.

I’ve run other marathons, but none as inspirational or rewarding as the Marine Corps Marathon. And now for that nagging question, “why?”

There is no one answer, and that is the beauty of the Marine Corps Marathon. It is truly the “People’s Marathon.” Everyone has their reasons for running and are welcome to run in the Marathon. For me it embodies all the things I cherish about the Marine Corps: the history, tradition and most importantly the bonding of a community into a family.

Oh, and about that story – the jury’s still out on that one. What do you think?